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PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

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1842.

No. 34.

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March 16. (Stated Meeting).

**SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D.**, President, in the Chair.

On the recommendation of Council, **Charles Wheatstone, Esq.**, was elected an honorary member of the Academy.

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The Secretary of Council read the following Report, which was ordered to be entered on the Minutes :

“ The affairs of the Academy during the past year will require but a brief review, as the interval has not been very fertile in results. The second part of the nineteenth volume of our Transactions has not yet been published ; and the Essay on the Round Towers (which is to make the twentieth volume) is still advancing slowly through the press, its progress being necessarily retarded by the great number of illustrations which are required from the nature of the work.

“ The subscription which was opened last year, under the management of the Committee of Antiquities, for the purchase of the collection of the late Dean of St. Patrick’s, has not hitherto answered the expectations that were formed of it. Of the sum of one thousand pounds, which the Dean’s representatives agreed to accept for the collection, little more than one-half has been raised. Notwithstanding this circumstance, however, the Council are persuaded that public feeling is in favour of the project, and that a little more energy, on our part, is all that is required to ensure success. It would indeed be a disgrace to us, if, for want of proper exertions, this fine collection should be lost to the country.

“ Meanwhile, the small cabinet in the possession of the Academy has been augmented by some valuable articles, from the fund of two hundred pounds set apart for that purpose. Among these are a gold *torquis*, weighing upwards of twelve ounces; and a gold *collar* of the most elegant form and workmanship, weighing four and a-half ounces. The latter beautiful specimen of ancient art was lately dug up in a bog, by a common labourer, and but for the existence of the fund above mentioned, which allowed it to be secured at once for the Academy, it would probably have been condemned to the crucible; the usual fate of such old ornaments as possess a high intrinsic value.

“ As this fund, however, is but small, and in the present state of our finances cannot be expected to be permanent, while the resources of private subscription, to which we have so often had occasion to resort, must be considered as now almost exhausted, the Council have thought it advisable to try whether it might not be possible to obtain some public assistance towards carrying out an object which is admitted to be one of great public interest. They have therefore presented a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, praying his Excellency to recommend to her Majesty’s Government the addition of £100 a year to our usual grant, for the sole purpose of purchasing antiquities; this additional sum to be strictly accounted for every year. Should the proposal be favourably received by the Government, the Academy will be in a position to accomplish its designs in this department, at a very trifling expense to the public.

“ In order that a greater number of the members of the Academy may be induced to take a lively interest in its affairs, by enjoying a share of its honours, the Council have thought it expedient to recommend that there should in future be an annual change in the list of Vice-Presidents, the senior Vice-President going out of office after the stated meeting in March, and they hope that every future President will consent to act upon this suggestion in the appointment of Vice-Presidents. But as it is proposed, by this arrangement, that no person should be appointed as Vice-President more than four times successively, so it is not intended to recommend that any Vice-President should be displaced, who may have been appointed less than four times successively.

“ Among the deaths that have occurred in our body, during the

past year, we have had to regret that of the Very Rev. Robert Burrowes, D.D., Dean of Cork, and formerly Fellow of Trinity College. Though not an original member, Dr. Burrowes was among the very first members of the Academy. He filled the office of Secretary for several years, and contributed some very elegant papers, in the department of Polite Literature, to the early volumes of our Transactions.

“ Within the last few days we have had to lament the death of another distinguished member of the Academy and Council, the Rev. Cæsar Otway, the author of several well-known works illustrative of the history and antiquities of his native country, and abounding in graphic sketches of Irish scenery, and vigorous delineations of Irish character and manners.

“ In the list of honorary members, we have lost an eminent Botanist, Aylmer Burke Lambert, Esq. He was the author of a magnificent work on Pines, in three volumes, the last of which, more recently published than the rest, contains some fine contributions from the Californian collections of our countryman and fellow-academician, Dr. Coulter.

“ The other members deceased within the year are :

Peter Burrowes, Esq., Q. C.      Isaac D'Olier, LL. D.  
J. H. Blake, Esq., Q. C.

“ And the new members elected within the year are :

William Monsell, Esq.	J. H. Jellett, Esq., F. T. C. D.
Robert Tighe, Esq.	William Andrews, Esq.
W. E. Hudson, Esq.	J. T. Banks, Esq.
G. Fitzgibbon, Esq.	Robert Bateson, Esq.
William Phibbs, Esq.	John Burrowes, Esq.
Rev. James Reid.	Rev. Samuel Butcher, F. T. C. D.
William Lee, Esq., F. T. C. D.	Fleetwood Churchill, M. D.
Robert Jones, Esq.	Alexander Clendinning, Esq.
Thomas Wilson, Esq.	Rev. Reg. Courtenay.
Beriah Botfield, Esq.	Durham Dunlop, Esq., Jun.
W. T. Mulvany, Esq.	Alexander Ferrier, Esq.
Oliver Sproule, Esq.	Wrigley Grimshaw, M. D.
James Thompson, Esq.	William Hogan, Esq.
James Patten, M. D.	W. J. Hughes, Esq.

William Roberts, Esq., F. T. C. D. Joseph Nelson, Esq.  
 Captain A. C. Sterling. Rev. Robert Chatto."  
 Rev. Thomas Stack, F. T. C. D.

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**RESOLVED**,—That we have heard, with deep regret, of the death of our fellow Academician, the Rev. Cæsar Otway, and that, while we wish to record our sense of the value of his services to the Academy, and our opinion of his merits as an author, who, possessing in his own person many of the best traits in the Irish character, has by his lively and interesting sketches powerfully assisted in drawing public attention to the history, scenery, and antiquities of his native land; we desire also to convey to his afflicted family the assurances of our sincere sympathy in their sorrow for one whose private virtues rendered him the delight of the domestic circle, as his talents and information made him valuable as a member of our Institution.

**RESOLVED**,—That the Academy have heard, with regret, that Dr. Aquilla Smith, having found his attendance on the Council inconsistent with his professional pursuits, has tendered the resignation of his place as a member of Council; and they desire to express their sense of the valuable assistance they received from him during the time they had his cooperation in advancing their objects.

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The ballot for the Annual Election having closed, the scrutineers reported that the following gentlemen were elected Officers and Council for the ensuing year:

*President*—Sir William Rowan Hamilton, LL.D.

*Treasurer*—James Pim, Jun., Esq.

*Secretary to the Academy*—Rev. Joseph H. Singer, D.D.

*Secretary to the Council*—J. Mac Cullagh, Esq. LL.D.

*Secretary of Foreign Correspondence*—Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D.D.

*Librarian*—Rev. William H. Drummond, D.D.

*Clerk and Assistant Librarian*—Edward Clibborn.

*Committee of Science.*

Rev. Franc Sadleir, D.D., Provost of Trinity College ;  
 Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D.D. ; James Apjohn, M.D. ; James  
 Mac Cullagh, LL.D. ; Rev. William Digby Sadleir, A.M. ;  
 Robert Ball, Esq. ; Robert Kane, M.D.

*Committee of Polite Literature.*

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin ; Rev. Joseph Henderson Singer, D.D. ; Samuel Litton, M.D. ; Rev. William Hamilton Drummond, D.D. ; Rev. Charles Richard Elrington, D.D. ; Rev. Charles William Wall, D.D. ; Rev. Thomas H. Porter, D.D.

*Committee of Antiquities.*

George Petrie, Esq. ; Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D. ; Henry J. Monck Mason, LL.D. ; Samuel Ferguson, Esq. ; Joseph Huband Smith, Esq. ; James Pim, Jun. Esq. ; Captain Larcom, R.E.

The President then appointed, under his hand and seal, the following Vice-Presidents :

His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin ; the Rev. Humphrey Lloyd, D.D. ; the Rev. James Henthorn Todd, D.D. ; the Rev. Joseph Henderson Singer, D.D.

The auditors appointed by Council to examine the Treasurer's accounts reported as follows :

" We have examined the above accounts,\* with the vouchers produced, and have found it to be correct ; and we find that there is a balance in bank, amounting to £169 17s. 1*d.* sterling.

" (Signed,)

" THOMAS HUTTON,

" JOSEPH CARSON.

" *March* 16, 1842."

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\* Entered in Treasurer's book.

“ The Treasurer reports, that there is £1052 6s. 8d. in 3 per Cent. Consols, and £1609 4s. 9d., in  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent. Stock, the latter being the Cunningham Fund.

“ (Signed,)

“ AQUILLA SMITH.

“ *March* 16, 1842.”

April 11.

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, LL.D., President, in the Chair.

Rev. Richard Butler, Robert Law, M. D., and John Toleken, M. D., F. T. C. D., were elected members of the Academy.

Mr. Ferguson read a paper by the Rev. Arthur B. Rowan, A. M., M. R. I. A., on the ancient Church of Kilmelchedor.

This church stands in a small hamlet and parish of the same name, in the barony of Corkaguiny, county of Kerry, at the foot of Brandon mountain, and near the harbour of Smerwick. At the top of the neighbouring mountain is a small ruined oratory, and a well of great reputed sanctity, which are dedicated to St. Brandon, or Brendan, the founder of the Diocesan Cathedral of Ardfert; and the neighbourhood is further remarkable for some of those small stone-roofed cells or chapelries which are supposed to belong to a very remote age, and of which one that has been described and engraved by Smith, in his History of Kerry, still remains in complete preservation. The church derives its name from St. Melchedor, who is mentioned in a catalogue of saints in the book of Ballimote; also in a MS. calendar in the Library of the Academy, where, under the date May 14, he is commemorated as “ Melchedar, son of Ronan, son of the King of Ulster, of Kilmeilche[dor?], on the sea shore, at Knock-